



NEWS

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Open Burning Season for Double Cropping Stubble Ends Burn Seasons for Stubble and Wildlife Management Begin

The open burning season for disposal of double cropping stubble will come to a close, Thursday, August 31, while two other open burning seasons -- those for stubble and wildlife management -- will begin September 1, according to Ellen Garvey, Air Pollution Control Officer for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The open burning season for wildlife management runs from September 1 through October 15, and any fires set for the purpose of improving lowland and marsh areas for wildlife and game habitat must be deemed necessary by the Department of Fish and Game. In addition, such fires are only allowed once in any 2-year period on a given piece of land, and no more than 100 acres of any property may be burned in a single day. Also, wildlife management fires are not allowed before 10:00 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m., nor can any additional material be added to existing fires after 3:00 p.m.

The burning season for agricultural fires set to dispose of stubble and straw begins September 1 and runs through the end of December. These fires must be deemed necessary and must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction. Also, no fires shall take place before 10:00 a.m., all material to be burned must be free of visible surface moisture and fires are subject to burn acreage limitations.

Open burning has been regulated in the Bay Area since 1957 because of its considerable contribution to air pollution. While backyard burning of leaves, trash, and grass cuttings or prunings has been prohibited in the Bay Area since 1970, certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards are exempted from District regulations for specified periods throughout the year.

Although certain fires are allowed during specific burn seasons, each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day. Days when air pollution caused by open burning would be minimized by favorable weather conditions are designated as BURN days.

Allowed fires can only take place on a BURN day. This means that even though a burn season may be in effect, parties seeking open burn authorization must check with the Air District for daily burn status prior to burning. BURN/NO BURN days are forecasted by 3 p.m. on the District's toll-free number 1-800-HELP-AIR for the following day.

Open burning requirements apply to the entire nine-county Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. For additional information, residents may call the District's Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900.

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